

OPINION

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Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Weighing in

Balanced-budget amendment makes sense

Somewhere in the Constitution of the United States of America there should be a balance sheet—or at least instructions on how to use one.

Our nation's lawmakers could pull out the old parchment, and right next to the signatures of the Constitutional Convention they could write in the amount of revenue and the amount of spending. And the two would have to equal each other.

Unfortunately, for years now, our congressmen have not been able to understand one of the basics of accountancy—you shouldn't spend more money than you have.

For this reason, the U.S. has a huge deficit. Consequently, several federal programs are threatening to break the back of government. For this reason, a balanced-budget amendment should be passed.

Balancing the budget most certainly will include cutting into social programs and dumping some level of financial responsibility onto the states.

Neither is desirable, but the alternative is to continue to drop the check in the laps of the next generation, and no one wants that.

That's why everybody loves the concept. It's common sense in an era where we have all but lost our heads.

If the Senate and president do hand a constitutional amendment to the states for ratification, there are questions that will have to be answered.

No one wants to touch the politically suicidal issue of cutting into entitlements, and states are afraid federal funds will dry up, forcing them to raise taxes.

It's time the federal government took a lesson from a C.P.A.

Another view

Dredging up compromising photographs or information about public figures seems to be all the rage in recent years.

Consider the fiasco over 1984 Miss America Vanessa Williams, whose nude photos ended up in Penthouse magazine. Or consider the honeymoon pictures of Tonya Harding and Jeff Gillooly.

It's a good thing, then, that the Smithsonian Institution has cut off all public access to a collection of nude photos taken of generations of elite college students, many of whom went on to become highly visible people in U.S. society and government.

Beginning in the early 1900s, freshmen at some colleges, including schools from the Ivy League, were required to pose in the nude as part of a "ritual." Apparently the photographs were used to study posture.

Reports by The Associated Press say that First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and former President George Bush would have been among those subject to the ritual, but it was not known whether their photos were in the collection.

While the photos of famous people would be in highest demand, every one of the subjects has the right to a level of privacy.

Besides, some things are better left to the imagination.

— University Daily Kansan
University of Kansas

Correction

The Daily Nebraskan erroneously reported in a Wednesday editorial that ASUN would consider the CFA Fund A requests Wednesday night. ASUN actually will consider the request Feb. 22.

Editorial policy

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Spring 1995. Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents. Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author. The regents publish the Daily Nebraskan. They establish the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the paper. According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its students.

Letter policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others. Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit or reject all material submitted. Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. The editor decides whether material should run as a guest opinion. Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted. Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.



Daily Nebraskan readers say:



Send your brief letters to:
Daily Nebraskan, 34
Nebraska Union, 1400 R St.,
Lincoln, Neb. 68588. Or fax
to: (402) 472-1761. Letters
must be signed and include a
phone number for
verification.

'Shamefaced defense'

Why did the Daily Nebraskan feel it necessary to print a defense of Cindy Lange-Kubick's opinion piece (Jan. 31) in which she discusses her choice beliefs?

It's no one's business except mine, and whoever I chose to involve in the decision, if I had an abortion, or five abortions. Similarly, it is no one's business if Lange-Kubick has had an abortion.

It infuriates me that a few letters from anti-choice individuals can motivate the Daily Nebraskan to print a shamefaced defense and invade Lange-Kubick's privacy.

Holly Trimper
graduate student
museum studies

The editor's note about Lange-Kubick's column was printed at her request. — Editor

'Pro-lifers'

I clearly understand the position of the pro-lifers regarding their views on abortion. I further respect the intellectualism and arguments why people remain pro or con on the subject.

Why a woman should or should not decide whether or not to have an abortion, in my estimation, is best left to the right and decision of the woman, her spouse and family physician.

All other considerations to the issue are secondary and nonessential.

Anti-abortionists willfully infringe on the right of a woman in matters of privacy and the right to freely exercise her freedom of expression. The argument by the pro-lifers is biased and therefore based on their religious beliefs.

This is all well and fine, but pro-lifers should not force their religious principles on the rights of other citizens who neither support nor share their stand on abortion.

Hell hath no fury like a pro-lifer scorned.

Religion and politics do not mix nor should they be integrated under a constitutional democracy. The

decision of family and personal matters regarding family reproduction must be held in highest respect to the wishes and rights of the family and both married or unmarried couples.

Alexis Wolf
Americans for Pro-Choice
Lincoln



Bret Gottschall/DN

Housing rules

This is in response to Andrea Casart's letter (Jan. 30). Yes, UNL Housing's cohabitation policy is an issue. It is unclear, unfair and outdated. What is actually printed in "The Good Life," the rules by which hall residents must abide, is not the policy enforced or espoused by housing officials.

First, what is an overnight guest? Does a person need to fall asleep for a certain amount of time between certain specified hours, or just be in your room all night?

If you choose the former, then what are these guidelines? If, however, you choose the latter, then I hope you do not have any opposite-sex friends you may wish to talk with late at night.

Second, "The Good Life" ('94-'95) specifically allows same-sex overnight guests up to 96 hours in a month. It says nothing at all about opposite-sex guests. Are we to assume that since no mention is

made that they are not allowed? If this is a valid assumption, then there is a problem. Persons in a homosexual relationship would be allowed to have their boyfriend or girlfriend stay the night, while heterosexual students would not.

Casart mentions that the policy helps roommates get along by not forcing one roommate to endure the presence of the other's boyfriend or girlfriend. What about those residents who have single rooms?

I must say I agree with Casart that some sort of policy is necessary in order to prevent persons from living in the halls rent-free, and to make life more comfortable for those persons who do have roommates. The current policy is inadequate and needs to be revised.

On a final note, Casart said she had never "heard anything but support for our visitation policy."

Well, I live here too, and I have heard nothing but dissatisfaction with the current policy.

Maybe Casart needs to pay a little closer attention to what the residents are saying since she is RHA president.

Michael Valerien
senior
philosophy

'Careless mistake'

It was a careless mistake on the part of the editors and the author. This was my reaction after going through an article titled "Muslims celebrate holy month" (Jan. 31).

The author writes, "Ramadan lasts for about 30 days ... and the last 10, while not required, are very important."

No matter which school of thought you choose in Islam, fasting is required on each day in the month of Ramadan.

I was surprised how this misrepresentation of an important fact (in the context of the article) went unnoticed.

Care should be taken especially when reporting facts about different religions and faiths.

Syed A. Ahmed
junior
computer science